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The Danish Heritage Society of Dickson

by Andy Kjearsgaard

Dickson - where is that? Most readers will undoubtedly ask this question. This dot on the map probably became more familiar in recent years during the controversy over the construction of the Dickson Dam. While travelling between Edmonton and Calgary you may have noticed the road signs south of Red Deer directing you to one of Alberta's newest artificial lakes created by the Dickson Dam. Dickson itself is located about 20 miles west of Innisfail, and is about 10 miles southwest of Stephanson House at Markerville, known to most Icelanders. According to the Alberta Road Map, Dickson has a population of 66; so what's so great about this little group of houses in the country?

Not much really on a provincial or national scale. Not yet at least. However some day soon it will complement other Scandinavian Heritage facilities such as the Markerville Creamery and Stephanson House. A National Danish-Canadian Museum is envisioned, modeled after the Danish museum at Elk Horn in Iowa. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

In recent years we have all been conscious of an increased awareness of our heritage, particularly among the many and varied ethnic groups in Canada. This "heritage bug" also struck a number of individuals in Dickson who felt that something tangible should be done to preserve the history of Dickson - which after all was the first Danish settlement in Western Canada. Spearheaded by Esther Thesberg, knowledgeable people within government were contacted, and a meeting advertised to discuss the matter and to gauge local interest. This turned out to be a very significant meeting. On that day, June 18, 1985, the Danish Heritage Society of Dickson was born. Their stated purpose was "to operate a Pioneer Museum for the purpose of educating the public about the history of the

Dickson area with emphasis on it being the first Danish settlement in Western Canada". Their intent was to house the Pioneer Museum in the Dickson store. This general store, built in 1909, had served the community until 1980 when its doors were closed. Gordon Christiansen, its owner, graciously donated the store and its site to the Society. Since that time events have unfolded much faster than the local committee had dared hope. Some of the more significant developments are:

1. A local executive (with Esther Thesberg as president), a Board of Directors, an Advisory Council, a Finance Committee, a Building Committee, and an Archives Committee, are in place.
2. A membership drive and other functions have occurred and are planned as publicity and fund-raisers.
3. Letters of support have been received from Donn Larsen, Royal Danish Consulate; Rolf Buschardt Christensen, President of the Federation of the Danish Associations in Canada; as well as from the Red Deer and District Archives Committee.
4. Video taping of local pioneer families and their histories is well underway. These will be included for viewing in the museum part of Dickson store.
5. A feasibility study has been completed by David Murray, architect, in which he outlines plans and costs for restoring and developing Dickson store and its site as an historically accurate museum.
6. Government grants have been received and applied for to help cover store restoration and site development.
7. Development approval has been obtained from the county of Red Deer, and associated legal surveys conducted.
8. Plans are underway to raise funds through corporate donations to help finance the project.

In his letter of support, Mr. Rolf Buschardt Christensen lamented the fact that "the



Sod roof installation - See article on Page 6

Danes in Canada have until now shown scant interest in preserving and documenting their history". He goes on to suggest that Dickson would be the perfect location for such a museum. With this endorsement the Danish Heritage Society of Dickson has indicated a desire to pursue the concept of a National Danish Canadian Museum and Archives to be located in Dickson. In fact, David Murray in his feasibility study included some tentative facts and figures in support of such a facility. It would be located adjacent to the store on the same property the Society Danish-Canadian immigration, to preserve and display relevant artifacts from across Canada, and to collect and store historic material in an archive facility. Obviously such a facility will not become a reality for a few years, as the first priority for the Society is the restoration of the Dickson store. However some preliminary planning is underway, but the concept cannot become a reality unless all Danish organizations across Canada lend at least their moral support.

Until now I have written very little about Dickson itself and its early history. The first group of 17 Danish pioneers arrived from Omaha, Nebraska, in 1903 to claim their homesteads. At the Christmas celebration in 1906, 76 people were present. That same year a school was built. Over the ensuing

years immigrants continued to arrive, some from Denmark and others from elsewhere in Canada or the U.S.A. For some reason there was a significant increase in Danish arrivals during 1928 and 1929. As a young lad, during that time, I can remember that many Danish bachelors were temporarily lodged in my parents' home until they were permanently settled, either on their own homestead, or somewhere as a hired man. During those early years, Dickson was perceived in Denmark as the major Danish Cultural centre in Canada.

The first settlers had organized themselves into a Lutheran congregation before they left Omaha. Their first Pastor, the Rev. Gundeson arrived in 1904, to become the first Danish Lutheran Pastor in Canada. A Church was built in 1911 in which the Danish language was used exclusively until 1928. As the English language became more prevalent among the second and third generation Danes, and many non-Danes moved into the area, it became apparent that, if the Church were to remain relevant, it would have to discontinue using the Danish language. It is not surprising that the transition period was long and difficult. Not until the early 1950's did Danish completely give way to English in the Church. There is no doubt that over the years the Church has had a strong influence in moulding the settlers into a

viable community.

Dickson store was built in 1909, the construction financed by Carl Christiansen and his family, who were among the first arrivals in 1903. He operated the store until his death in 1945. After the older son, Homo, died, Gordon Christiansen carried on until 1980 when he closed down the business. Over the years the store served not only as a general store, but was the everyday meeting place for the locals. Carl Christiansen offered generous credit and assistance to those in need, particularly during the depression years of the "dirty thirties". Although renovations and improvements were made to the store, the original structure is still there. It is in and around this historical building that the Danish Historical Society of Dickson is focussing its plans and aspirations.

The main purpose of this article is to inform readers of this project, and hopefully generate interest, especially among the Danes. As a director of the Danish Heritage Society of Dickson, I am authorized to sell memberships. (Individual memberships are \$5.00 per year, and family memberships are \$10.00 per year). I would also be pleased to answer questions regarding the project. My address is 11549 -140 St. in Edmonton and phone number is 455-5319.

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Solglyt Spotlight

By Bob Burt

Feb. 20 - "Hytte Fest" was held with ERTE SUPPE for Supper at Fort Edmonton, with dancing to Gaby Haas' music.

Feb. 28 - Alberta Culture Folk Arts Council at Hawrelak Park was held with Bunads and a colorful costume parade at the Bandshell.

Mar. 6-7-8 - Winter Games held at OLDS, Alberta

March 28 - Silver Broom Curling Bonspiel at Balmoral Curling Rink.

Apr. 6 - Installation of New Members to Lodge. Slide Presenatation of Norway; and Introduction of New Queen.

Apr. 11 - Presentation of Curling Trophies & Social evening.

May 4 - Combined General and Executive Meeting.

May 5 - Torske Klubben Saxony Inn Guest Speaker Lorne Ysvuk.

May 15 - Syttende Mai Dance, Banquet at the Convention Inn.

June 6 - Torske Klubben - Ladies Night. Saxony Inn.

June 11 - Ladies Sewing Club making Lefse at Devon for Heritage Days.

June 20-21 - St. Hans Fest at Mulhurst (Pigeon Lake).

Aug. 1-2 - Heritage Days Hawrelak Park.

Aug. 16-23 - Culture and Language Camp at HASTINGS LAKE.

Sept. 1 - General Meeting.

Sept. 8 - Torske Klubben.

Oct. 2 - Leif Erikson Fest at the Faculty Club (U. of A.).

Oct. 5 - General Meeting.

Oct. 6 - Torske Klubben.

Nov. 2 - Nomination of Officers for coming year.

Nov. 3 - Torske Klubben.

Dec. 5 - Torske Klubben Ladies Night.

Dec. 7 - Executive Officers Meeting.

SOLGLYT LODGE #143 is responsible for the DISTRICT 4 CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN 1990.

"Erter Suppe"
Main Course

"Hytte Fest" was well attended by members and friends of Sons of Norway, on Friday evening, February 20th. The "clerks quarters" at Fort Edmonton provided a rustic atmosphere which set the mood for an evening of fun and dancing. Delicious, authentic "Norsk erter suppe" accompanied by flatbrod and dinner rolls served as the main course, followed by "fyrste kake and lefse" to accompany the after-dinner coffee. The tables were decorated in true "hytte style" with red runners, Norwegian placemats, candles and spring daffodils.

Special thanks to Anny-Marie Woldmo for the beautifully decorated tables. Also a special thanks to Ruth Wiebe for her contribution of delicious "erter suppe". Ruth was unfortunately not able to attend due to illness, but a lot of other people enjoyed her soup! After dinner, two witty skits were presented by members of the executive and Queen Linda Nyhus. Wally Broen, accompanied by his accordian, led a sing-song, and this was followed by dancing to the music of Gaby Haas. The Social-lites would like to thank all those who attended - also the curlers who showed up after their games, to make this first social evening a great success.

A Little on
Kaare Askildt

Bob Burt

Kaare Askildt and his wife Coco ran in the "Mothers Day" Marathon, results not known before going to press, but both Coco and Kaare have done exceptionally well in previous endeavours. This race is the

preliminary run prior to the Edmonton Marathon to be during Klondike Days July 28th.

Gary Johnson, who has made up the trio in these races in the past, has had an operation on his knee, (May 10), and could not run in the Mother's Day Race, but hopes, (all going well) to run in the Edmonton marathon. We are all pulling for you Gary!!

Kaare's brother, Moritz, and his wife, Sigrum, both of Oslo, visited the Askildts here for three weeks in April. They were on their way home after attending a NATO Conference in Los Angeles. Moritz is a Commander in the Royal Norwegian Navy.

Sons of Norway Member
Wins World Ski
Competition in Finland

Bjorn Lasserud of Richfield, Minnesota, earned two gold medals at the World Masters '87 cross-country tournament in Kuusamo, Finland. Lasserud won first place in the 30 km and 15 km races in his age division. Lasserud, now 57, began cross-country skiing at the age of 40. In his native Norway, he had done some downhill skiing and skating. Since his arrival in the United States in 1959, he has earned honors in several cross-country races.

Lasserud won medals at World Masters Championship at Telemark, Wisconsin in 1983, Hirschau, West Germany in 1985, and Lake Placid, New York, in 1986, and has won six of the seven American Birkebeiner races in his age group. Sports Illustrated magazine honored Lasserud as a "Face In The Crowd" for April 1985.

Bjorn is a twenty-five year member of Sons of Norway Vonheim Lodge in

Minneapolis and a twenty-year member of the Norwegian Glee Club. Sons of Norway International and friends of Lasserud helped fund his trip to Finland for the 1987 World Masters and are proud to celebrate his victory with him.

Box Lunches Go Fast

By Jeff Morrow

The Calgary Sons of Norway held their first box social in the Scandinavian Centre Valhalla room, March 28. It was an evening of fun for all participating members, as auctioneer Don Wudel highlighted the event with his flashy western wardrobe and flip-pant salesmanship.

Members attending were asked to bring one box lunch that would be auctioned off during the evening's festivities.

The meals went as fast as Wudel could talk, and everyone seemed pleased with the results.

Sons of Norway spokesman, Garry Arye, said that the money would go to the club's till to finance future events.

Cultural Corner

Edmonton will assist the Trollhaugen Camp Society this year. If anyone requires information or applications please phone or write to:

Thordis Kamp
Box 236
Carstairs, Alberta
T0M 0W7 Phone: 337-2367
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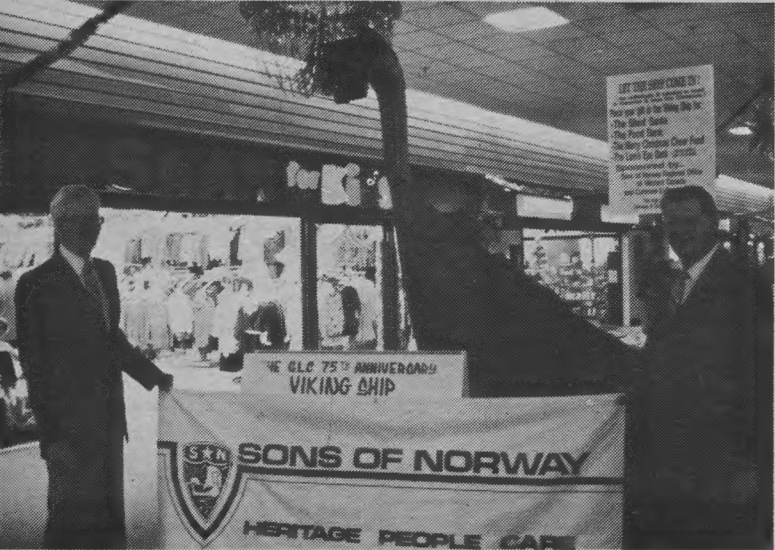
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STANLEY HAFSO



Ross Anderson, Area Manager for Sons of Norway, and Jim Rasmussen, Director of Public Relations at Camrose Lutheran College, with the College's 75th Anniversary Viking Ship, filled with food and toys as gifts to Camrose families in need during Christmas.

CAMROSE FILLS THE SHIP!

The people of Camrose and area were encouraged to "fill the ship" during the weeks before Christmas - and indeed they did! As a joint project between the Sons of Norway Ronning Lodge 504 and Camrose Lutheran College, the College's 75th Anniversary Viking Ship was placed in the Duggan Mall in Camrose, and the community was invited to bring gifts of food and toys for families in need during the holiday season. Sponsoring organizations included the local Food Bank, the Kinette's "Silent Santa", the

Merry Christmas Cheer Fund, and the Lion's Club used eye-glasses program. "It was marvellous to see the response from the people of Camrose to this idea", said Jim Rasmussen, Director of College & Church Relations for Camrose Lutheran College. "We are indeed appreciative of such support on behalf of all these organizations, and we enjoyed sharing this unique project with the Sons of Norway." Approximately 300 hampers were prepared and delivered to families in the community shortly before Christmas.

INSTALLATION OF 1987 EXECUTIVE AT "FROKOST"

by Bob Burt

On January 18th, 1987, an "EKTE MORSK FROKOST" (Norwegian Brunch), was held at the Masonic Temple. Selma Sorenson and her sister-in-law, Carol Johnson, planned and prepared a most decorative Smorgasbord. The Rice Pudding was provided by Janette Burt. The mounds of cookies, cakes, breads, cheese, fish and eggs were decoratively set on three large tables. The hall and tables were decorated by Anny Marie Woldmo. What a feast-fit for a King and his court!

Those persons gathered were there to witness the Installation of the 1987 Executive. The new executive were sworn in to office by the Installing Officer, Harvey Haugen.

Those installed at this very colorful ceremony included President - Betty Broen, Vice Pres. - Verner Steinbru, Secretary - Gail Peterson, Treasurer - John Stensland, Financial Sec. - Stan Johnson, Counsellor - Reidun Berg, Asst. Marshall - Selma Sorenson, Asst. Cultural Dir. - Harry Huser, Social Director - Anny Marie Woldmo, Assistants - Gwen Legaarden, Johanne Nilsen, Bernice Nyhus and Pat Stensland, Sports Director - Keith Moore, Publicity - Bob Burt, Historian - Janette Burt, Trustees - Ken Domier, Sev. Berge and Roald Enokson, Auditors - Wally Broen and Bernie Olafson, News Letter - Louise Johnson, Card Secretary - Lois Halberg.

Sons of Norway League Curling Club Wind-up

By Bob Burt

On March 28th the Silver Broom Bonspiel was played off. After a series of games (Round Robin) points for games were accumulated. The Rink with the highest points was the Ken Domier Rink which consisted of Olga McBride, Dave Howell and Marline Moore. The trophy was presented at the final banquet, along with presentation of the other trophies.

In League play throughout the season, Wins and Losses were accumulated to name the League Champion rink. Dale McBride and his rink, including Olga McBride with Bud and Faye Osborne, accumulated 28 points to top the League.

For the wind-up of the 12-rink league, the Top 4 rinks entered the "A" Event, the next 4 the "B", while the final 4 teams entered the "C" event. The Spiel was played off in two nights, March 20 and 27th.

The A Event finals were played off on the 27th. Finalists in "A" resulted in the Frank Lee Rink, supported by Judy Myrose, Craig Myrose and Cathy O'Toole, winning over Dale and Olga McBride supported by Bud and Faye Osborne.

B EVENT In "B" Event Leo Allegretto skip, supported by Daryl Fitzpatrick, Wilma Weber and Kathy Panaliuk, won their final game over Keith Moore, Wanda Ducherer, Walter Pelech and Carol Ransom.

C EVENT In the "C" event finalists Gary and Evelyn Johnson, supported by Rod and Laurie Osborne, were victorious over Doug and Caroline Anderson together with Karel and Margo Lamac.

Members ended the season on April 11th at the Balmoral upstairs Hostess Room where they enjoyed a complete Turkey Dinner. Following the repast, the Presentation of Trophies, medals and prizes took place. Following the noisy and jubilant presentations, a dance followed to wind down the curling for another year.



Curling president Keith Moore and Mrs. Moore

Keith Moore presents "C" Event curler Laurie Osborne with trophy

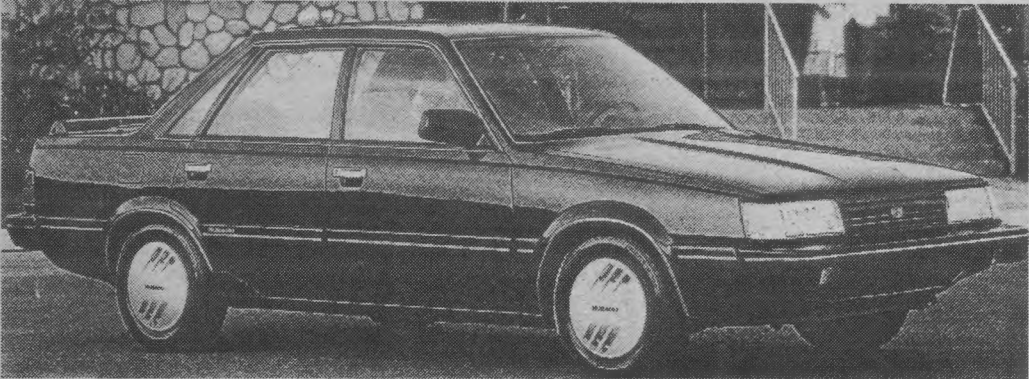


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Torske Klubben Up-Date

by Bob Burt

The meeting of February 3rd saw an excellent turnout of over 90. The meeting included reports from Sons of Norway activities at Fort Edmonton, where Soup and Beans were part of the menu served at that evening function. Gaby Haas entertained for the Dance. The Birkebeiner Cross-country ski race from Devon to Edmonton (Feb. 14th) was called off, due to poor snow conditions.

At the Torske Meeting Jarl Omholt-Jensen was present with his host of jokes and humorous stories. It is always an exciting evening when Jarl turns up at Torske.

Guest speaker that evening was Kare Hellu, who spoke on his many experiences in Saigon, Ho Chi Minh and Korea. His topic, "Facts or Fiction", was further enhanced by the many pictures taken while he has been on his many exploits in the Far East. This was an educational evening bringing the color of a land new to most of the viewers.

MARCH MEETING

The meeting held March 3rd was well attended and guest speaker was Stan Johnson. This was another night of slides and pictures of the Far East. Both Stan and Louise had spent the Summer in China, Japan, South Korea, Bangkok, Singapore and Bali and points South. He showed pictures and commented as he went, making it all the more interesting because he knew the area, and told many side stories.

APRIL MEETING:

The April meeting of Torske was attended by over 80 members and guests. As usual Torske was excellent, jokes were good and the atmosphere jovial.

The guest speaker was Marty Larson, introduced by Doug Peterson. Marty is a well-known radio personality in the stock market area, and has been Past President of the Scandinavian Club.

His topic was on similarities of the Financial differences, and the collapse of the 1929-35 era as it compares to the present-day situation. Fifty years later, we seem to again be on a 'Down Leg'. He indicated this would change by 1990. The talk was very widespread and interesting, covering a variety of areas including 'Free trade' with U.S.A. and thought of including Mexico within 10 years. He stated that Canada had a great opportunity in Tourism in the near future, and should be working toward that situation. He further stated that with the changing situations, education will assume additional importance and everyone should strive for 1 or 2 degrees. Al Letendre thanked him for his fine talk, and presented him with 2 Torske Klubben mugs, a memento of the occasion.

MAY MEETING:

At the May 5th meeting of Torske, over 60 members and guests were in attendance. Early that evening it was announced that a new Secretary had been named, Eugene Bolstad, as well as a new Treasurer, Harry Mjaatveit, replacing Vic Elverum and Allan Anderson, who due to pressure of their own work, would not be able to take the best care of Torske responsibilities.

Further business of the club: it was passed that an honorarium be set up for the reigning Sons of Norway Queen. The Sons of Norway will be presenting \$100.00 for the Queen, and Torske Klubben will match this award.

The Supper was something else: all enjoyed the cod, the Linga A Akvavit. Jarl Omholt-Jensen entertained again to add to the evening.

The guest speaker was Lorne Yacuk, Director of Youth Enterprise Centre. He was introduced by Verner Steinbru.

The topic chosen by Lorne was "Entrepreneurship". At the present time he is working with young people 16 to 30 years of age. He is instilling in their minds that there are many business opportunities available, and encouraging them to work on them. He spoke very optimistically of the future of small business ventures. He indicated that 80% of workers are presently employed by small businesses with fewer than 20 employees.

At present the Government is offering support to unemployed tradespeople, and encouraging them to look to the future in business. In speaking of Entrepreneurship Lorne indicated that in operating your own business you would be working 16 hours a day for yourself to avoid working 8 hours for someone else. He supported the "Push Factor" not the "Negative Factor". In this respect he said that in 80% of new small businesses they were PUSHED into business, due to the opportunity and necessity of an idea that just had to be promoted. It was said that women in business have less emotion than men, poor decisions would be just set aside to try again; while men have too much pride. He said that in the past 81% of small business failed; now it is closer to 50%.

His idea is to take young men and ladies to task on what they see or believe might be worthy of production. For that success and the open door, he made four points: 1. Invest less than 10% less than that has a need. 2. Find new uses for old products. 3. Find new market for an existing market. 4. Duplicate an existing business in another area.

Enforced substitution (local supply and manufacture), tends to cut down delivery time, costs to retailer, and the supply is local. His motto: "Have

the firstest with the mostest with the bestest". These new businesses need to have support, and those involved educated in business.

It was surprising the interest, enthusiasm and optimism that this man injected into the room. Lorne Yacuk can be contacted through Youth Enterprises, the Y.M.C.A. or through N.A.I.T.

Following Lorne's informative talk, Keith Lillevolden presented him with two Torske Klubben Drinking Mugs, a memento of the occasion.

Next meeting of Torske Klubben will be held June 6th - "LADIES NIGHT". Let's have a good turnout.



Ski competitors

Fjellsyn 591 Hosts '87 Sports Weekend

By Noreen Olson

The "Winter Games" are unique to Zone 4. Fjellsyn Sons of Norway lodge #591 of Olds, Alberta, was only 2 years old when several of their members attended a Winter Games Sports Weekend hosted by Northern Lights lodge #493 of Grande Prairie, Alberta. At this 1986 Sports Weekend, despite Fjellsyn's youth and inexperience, we were delighted to have our bid for the 1987 games accepted, set for March 6, 7 & 8th.

Planning began almost immediately and Emil Dorin of our capable Field Staff was unanimously elected Director of Winter Games '87. Thelma Dorin, Director of Zone 4, District 4, worked directly with Emil on this project and within days the various committee heads had been selected.

Events and their co-ordinators were as follows: Skiing-Leif Terning; Bowling-Marion Dahlgren; Curling-Arvin Boger; and Whist-Mel Haakonson. Numerous other committees were formed to cover such vital things as raffles, transportation, registration, entertainment, bar service, reservations, music, photography, kits and giveaways, the banquet, trophies, prizes and, central to any Norwegian festivity-Food.

Registration Friday night began with food arranged by Thordis Kamp and Olga Terning and donated by members of Fjellsyn lodge. There were quantities of beautiful open-faced sandwiches, mounds of crisp rosettes, rich squares, delicate cookies and gallons and gallons of coffee! All this spread on long tables in the new Students Centre at Olds College. As the approximately 300 people registered our own guitarist-singer Jim Haug and his daughter Patti Gibbs and 'The Freeloaders' from Solglyt lodge #143 Edmonton entertained.

As the evening progressed feasting gave way to dancing, hungry dancers

returned to the food tables and about midnight happy Vikings representing 12 lodges began to retire.

Saturday was filled with activity. Breakfast began at 6:00, picture-taking was scheduled for 7:30, with Phyllis Johnson-President of District 4 throwing the first bowling ball, and Bjarne Eikevik - International President of Sons of Norway - throwing the first curling rock. Skiers boarded their bus to leave for Kananaskis Park by 8:00 A.M. Curling at the Olds Sportsplex began at 8:00 and bowling at both Olds and Innisfail alleys began then also. Whist players were allowed a few more minutes to sleep or have another cup of coffee, and then they began at 9:00 at the Rec. Centre in Olds.

While all these athletic endeavors were underway organizational activities continued. Foundation meetings and luncheons were scheduled, decorating and food preparation continued, the nerve centre at the Sportsman Inn Hospitality Room co-ordinated directives and transportation, tours for visitors were accomplished, money and tickets were counted and even place-cards calligraphed for the Head Table.

By 6:00 P.M. Saturday evening the Students Alumni Centre was festive with flags and bunting, crisp table cloths and Sons of Norway centerpieces and banners. Cocktails were served until 7:00 when M.C. Noreen Olson requested that everyone be seated. Pianist Grace Duff and soloist Inga Fobes led the assembly in a stirring trio of National Anthems, O Canada, The Star Spangled Banner and Ja, Vi Elsker Dette Landet. Invocations in both Norwegian and English were said by Counsellor Ruth Dodd, and Neil Olsen, President of Fjellsyn, offered a warm welcome. Thelma Dorin, Director of Zone 4, District 4, introduced the Lodge Presidents and made an informal role call and count of the various lodges. Head Table and Field Staff was introduced and we were delighted to present such luminaries as Evelyn Novik, Sec., Treas. Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada; Sonia Morgan-Youth Director, Zone 4, District 4; Kermit Lilje-International Director; Jack Lysne-President, Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada; Bjarne Eikevik-International President of Sons of Norway; Thelma Dorin-Director Zone 4, Dist. 4, and Director S/N Foundation in

Canada; Phyllis Johnson-President District 4; Harold Reeve-International Director, Dist. 7 and Director S/N Foundation in Canada; Emil Dorin-Field Staff and Director of Winter Games; Ken Domier-Director, Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada; and Bob Armstrong-Mayor of the Town of Olds.

Brother Jack Lysne, Brother Kermit Lilje and Sister Phyllis Johnson all brought greetings and then Thelma Dorin introduced Bjarne Eikevik, our International President. Brother Bjarne spoke with eloquence and great warmth and we were deeply honored by his presence.

At the conclusion of the banquet the orchestra "Soft Shoe" took their place on stage and once again dancing led to feasting, and feasting to well earned rest.

Sunday morning was scheduled to begin at 8:00 A.M. with a Winter Games meeting but uninvited and ugly guests began calling on the hapless tenants of the Sportsman's Motel at 6:00 A.M. These 3 denizens of the netherworld wore mask and tails and offered dippers of human blood from a well worn milk pail. Bjarne and Ruth Eikevik, Phyllis Johnson, Ross and Doreen Anderson, the Dorins and several others were all too frightened to refuse the Trolls' horrible potion but none of them reported lasting bad effects.

Norwegian brunch was served from 8:30 to 10:00 and then trophy presentations and raffle draws closed the weekend.

Nisse lodge #567 North Battleford was a double winner taking the trophy for the lodge with the best participation (percentage-wise) and the bid for Sports Weekend '88.

In whist, trophies were given for mens and ladies' high and low score. Curling awards were given for 1st, 2nd and low teams, with Olds overall winner. Bowling plaques were awarded to mens and ladies' high singles, crying towels to mens and ladies' low singles, and Red Deer was overall winner.

The skiers were privileged to be the first recipients ever of the TIMEX Skiathlon Awards. TIMEX watches were contributed by Fred Olson, owner of TIMEX watches, and awarded to the man and the lady with the best Skiathlon times and to the man and the lady who best exhibited Sportsmanship throughout the day. Medallions were awarded in the Poker Rally Ski event to 1st and 2nd men and 1st and 2nd ladies.

The members of Fjellsyn lodge feel that they gained immeasurably from this experience. A new feeling of warmth and closeness developed in our own lodge and a heightened sense of appreciation and fellowship for Sons of Norway everywhere. We were especially honored to have such a wonderful representation from Sons of Norway executive.

Our best wishes go to Nisse Lodge #567 North Battleford, hosts for next year's Sports Weekend. May your lodge find it as rewarding an experience as ours has.

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Canadian S/N Winter Games

By Bob Burt

Have you ever been bored when winter was nearly over and you felt like you needed a last fling? You need a real pick-me-up with loads of friendly people and a good sports activity?

Sons of Norway in Canada, District 4, has lived up to its motto "The Fabulous 4". Northerners are a rugged bunch, and Sons of Norway Canadians are no exceptions. They love their sports and they play them hard. District 4 has enjoyed these Winter Games from as far back as 1960, when the rival lodges of Calgary "Valhalla #341" and Edmonton "Solglyt #143," started a bowling challenge rivalry. Since that time, every March members spread over Alberta and Saskatchewan have thoroughly enjoyed these sports events, which now include bowling, curling and skiing. Those who are interested in attending, but not competing in sports, may be involved in the "Friendly Games", by entering the Norwegian Whist Competition.

Some members have travelled hundreds of miles from north, south, east and west to meet old friends, and make new ones. They willingly compete in an atmosphere of fraternalism, fellowship and fun; all in a weekend away from home.

At present there are a dozen lodges in Alberta and Saskatchewan which vie to hold the games at their Centre. Each of the games is better than the last. International heads have turned north to take part and marvel at what can be accomplished. The first International President to take part was Supreme President John F. Fegen in 1961. He offered this quote: "These games fulfill the Fraternal Destiny, through a Friendly Social Atmosphere".

When skiing became one of the activities, there were contestants from 8 to 64 years of age, now the range is between 6 to over 80 years. Members have travelled nearly a thousand miles

to participate and enjoy the fellowship. O. Marshall Moy has been to the games on a number of occasions. Kermit Lilja has been a regular attendee at contests in both bowling and curling. The British Columbian Norwegian Consul General, Nils A. Nissen, in 1980, competed in the Ski races. Then Gunnar Graundstad was 74 years young and still racing; he and Gunnar Sveinungsgaard, now over 80 years old, are still competitive racers.

Trygve Soyland, O. Marshall Moy and Kermit Lilja were present at the 1977 games, asking one another "Did you win today, or did you lose it?" These games are attended by from 200 to over 450 participants, each there to enter and compete.

Everett Knudsvig was in Calgary in 1981 to open the games. In his speech he said, "We shall all strive in the '80's to encourage confidence, promote leadership and evaluation"; he followed with "These go hand in hand with a Progressive Organization". He entered the bowling competition on the winning team. Kermit Lilja curled that year.

O. Marshall Moy in 1982 at Edmonton stated "Albertans are Leaders in Sporting Activities and are an Inspiration to the American Clubs".

Hans Stokken in '84 at Claresholm said, "The Winter Games show Fellowship, Keen Competition and a Getting Together of the Lodges".

Sports and competition are not all that make up the Winter Games. The Host Club, whether it be Grande Prairie, Claresholm or North Battleford, Saskatchewan, sends out invitations naming the place, date and time of registration for entries. Teams name their players and report the Friday evening of the weekend of the games. That night after the President's Welcome, members mingle with old friends and are introduced to new ones. There are always plenty of Norwegian delicacies available, including open-faced sandwiches, mounds of crisp

rosettes, rich squares, delicate cookies and gallons of coffee. The smorg is always accompanied by music for dancing and songs to sing.

After a good night's sleep and breakfast, host cars or busses are made available to take the players to their centres of activity. Following a full day of keen competition, good humor and sportsmanship, all are ready for a feast.

The large banquet hall is bedecked with color, the tables laid for many hundreds of guests are ready. There are mounds of delicious-tasting tantalizing foodstuff stacked high on numerous tables to satisfy every tastebud.

Of course there is the long headtable, and many speeches, welcome toasts and encouraging compliments.

When this is over, there are entertainers and a final dance. All those present go to their rooms to think of the Laurels to come the following morning, Sunday.

After rising early Sunday morning, all take in the greatest variety of breakfast foods set out to be consumed. There is everything you can imagine; the room overflows with "Milk and Honey".

The time has come then to pass out the Trophies, the gold, silver and bronze medallions. Then there are the other awards, not missing the "crying towels". All are aglow, their rewards in hand or prizes won.

Throughout the games the Presidents and Sports Officers have met to go over and change any rules for future games, and to come up with the host Lodge for next year. The job of the host Lodge is immense and although it has many problems, there are many rewards.

Following the passing out of Trophies and awards, the Host City for Next Year is named. Cheers go up at the thought of Next Year's event; "It will be our turn to bring home the Trophies then".

The games for 1988 will be hosted in March by Nisse Lodge #567 or North Battleford, Saskatchewan. All lodges will be planning and practicing for that event. We might see you there!



WISH A FISHERMAN BAD LUCK

In the days before science explained many of life's odd turns, superstition played an important role in people's reactions to events. In Norway, superstition was tied to people's daily chores, their farm animals, and even visitors to the home. Unseen forces, both good and bad, were acknowledged as realities, and superstition was the people's way of dealing with these forces.

- Here are some typical examples:
- * People watched the birds to find out where the fish were. When the seagulls circled high up over the boat, the fish were found deep down.
 - * It was a good sign to catch a small fish first, but to catch a fish at once was a bad sign. This meant that there would be no more. If there was no catch at all, the fisherman might have forgotten to spit on the hook to chase the witchcraft away.
 - * On the way home it was important not to reveal the contents or size of the catch; people who asked could expect vague answers or downright lies. In this way, invisible ears were prevented from hearing about the catch, and spells could not be cast on the fish.
 - * One should never express hopes for a good catch or bring large con-

tainers to keep the fish in, for then there would be no catch at all. The fisherman's luck increased with ill wishes - the worse, the better. Even today in Norway it is common to wish a fisherman bad luck.

- * If the porridge was burned, a tuft of wool had to be thrown into the flames. If this was not done, an accident would happen.
- * If milk was spilled on the fireplace, salt immediately had to be thrown into the fire or the cow's teats might go sore.
- * The sign of the cross was stamped, molded or imprinted with a finger on foods like butter, cheese and all forms of bread. This would protect the food from the hulder, the beautiful netherworld women with a cow's tail.
- * When the baking was finished for the day, the fireplace had to be swept clean or the trolls would come to bake during the night.
- * A stranger entering in the moment when a piece of flatbread was broken would soon have a child. If a piece of flatbread was burned at the moment a stranger entered, it meant that the person would become poor.

Article in Newspaper Solglyt Notes, March 1958

When you were recommended for membership in the Sons of Norway you were also recommended for a loan. The Lodge loaned you a membership by which you are identified, and like all other loans, it carries an interest charge. Interest is payable in regular attendance, paid up dues and a real interest in our organization. Interest is compounded annually and is paid in tokens of fellowship, work and play, in thought and deed, in your everyday life and in the life of the Sons of Norway Lodge. Penalty for default of interest is the loss of benefits that can be realized from your association with fellow members, at meetings and at socials which are really enjoyable affairs.



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Aspelund Laft Hus Board of Directors: Front Row, L to R - Betty Wulff, Eileen Bantjes, Mary Ritchie, Trudy Bakke; Mid Row, L to R - Eunice Langvand, Norman Langvand, Stan Wulff, Cliff Hansen; Back Row L to R - Helen Fitzgerald, Kaare Olsen, Lorna Sandau

The Aspelund Laft Hus

by: Betty Wulff

Early in 1974 Norwegian-Canadians in Central Alberta had a vision for the future that included preserving their Norwegian heritage. They wished to learn the methods of traditional Norwegian arts and then share them with others. In this way they could make a unique contribution to their community's cultural life and at the same time add to its attractiveness to visitors.

The Aspelund Laft Hus Society was formed in 1981 and after a period of planning, fund raising and study this small group began, tentatively at first, to build a museum-type Norwegian cultural centre. The log work was done on a temporary site north of the City under the direction of an expert log joiner from Norway. Later this prebuilt structure was dismantled, moved to a City of Red Deer park, and finished. Such was the beginning of one of Western Canada's most unique ethnic museums, the Aspelund Laft Hus.

It is situated in Red Deer's Recreation Park, close to the Pioneer's Lodge, Red Deer District Museum,

Golden Circle - and directly behind the Swimming Pool.

What is Aspelund Laft Hus?

In the Norwegian language "Aspelund" is similar to our word for Parkland. To "Laft" in Norwegian means to build with logs, and "Hus" is simply "House". The Norwegian pronunciation of Laft Hus sounds more like the spelling of LOFT HUSE.

The Laft Hus is a 28' x 34' single story structure built by volunteers with native pine logs. It has architectural details resembling a typical Norwegian farm home from the late seventeenth century.

The roof of sod is a distinctive feature, and was common to most Norwegian log buildings of old. In those days moisture proofing was assured by the applying of several layers of birch bark under the sod. However, due to the generosity of a factory in Notodden, Norway, a modern, plastic sod roof underlay has been used in place of the birch bark.

The decorative sval, or porch, embracing two sides of the house serves as an added wind buffer as well as passageway to additional storage.

The windows, doors, fireplace and furnishings are the work of volunteers who carefully studied photographs from books, then patiently copied them down to the last details. Some items were adapted to practical use in this century, and still others have the special interpretive mark of the volunteers who made them.

As ongoing projects, furnishings and artifacts will continue to be added and perfected in the coming years. Some woodcarved and rosemailed items will take many, many hours to produce. Some woven tapestries have been donated from Norway, and others will be made by students.



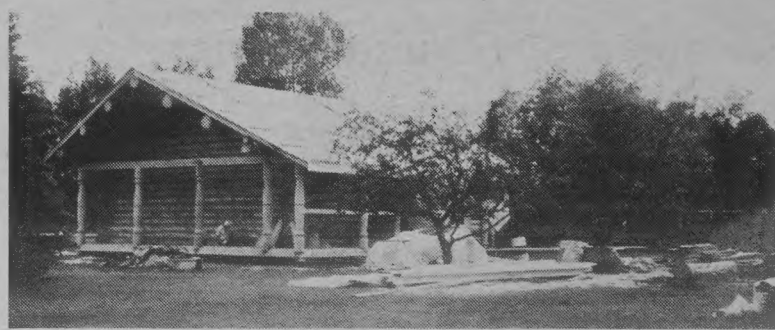
Stan Wulff, Kaare Olsen and Arne Rye work on floorboards

Mission of the Laft Hus

The Laft Hus is a centre for the preservation, interpretation, and study of material relating to life and culture of Norwegian-Canadians. As such it instills in Canadians of all ethnic backgrounds an awareness of the great diversity in their cultural heritage and enables Norwegian-Canadians to see, to understand, and to appreciate their place in the 'flower garden' of Canadian culture.

Cultural Programs

Workshops and classes in traditional Norwegian arts such as needlecraft, woodworking, rosema-



Laft Hus during construction

ing, cooking, dancing, language and music is offered to the public in the Laft Hus.

Imported and locally-made gift and craft items are offered for sale to the public, as well as most equipment necessary for cultural programs. Scandinavian cooking utensils, woodcarvers tools, rosemailed supplies are a few of the items one can expect to see.

A library of music, books, slides and video tapes is maintained for the student of Norwegian culture.

The Laft Hus Collection

In its function as a museum, the Laft Hus houses a collection of objects that document the history and culture of Canadians with a Norwegian background. Some of these were made by interested local crafts people, while others have been brought directly from Norway.

Some items, an American trunk and family Bible, were highly valued possessions of those who immigrated to this region at the turn of the century, and now will be kept for posterity in the Laft Hus.

Funding

Financial support for research, and for cultural workshops has been received from Alberta Culture. The Alberta Cultural Heritage Foundation awarded a substantial grant towards capital costs of the Laft Hus. This foundation's funds come from an allocation received from Western Canada Lottery proceeds. The Laft Hus project was in keeping with their objects of preserving the ethno-cultural wealth of our past.

Because the Laft Hus supplies cultural services to the public, financial assistance also came from Alberta Recreation Parks Department Community Cultural Grant Program.

A committee of senior citizens interested in the project was established to build furnishings and purchase needed items for programs. They received financial assistance from Health & Welfare Canada's New Horizon grant program.

Most significant has been the volunteer involvement, interest and support. Thousands of volunteer hours have been given by people of Norwegian, as well as other ethno-

Mary Ritchie crack-filling pillars made by Cliff Hansen



Norbert Lee, senior volunteer, finishes front door



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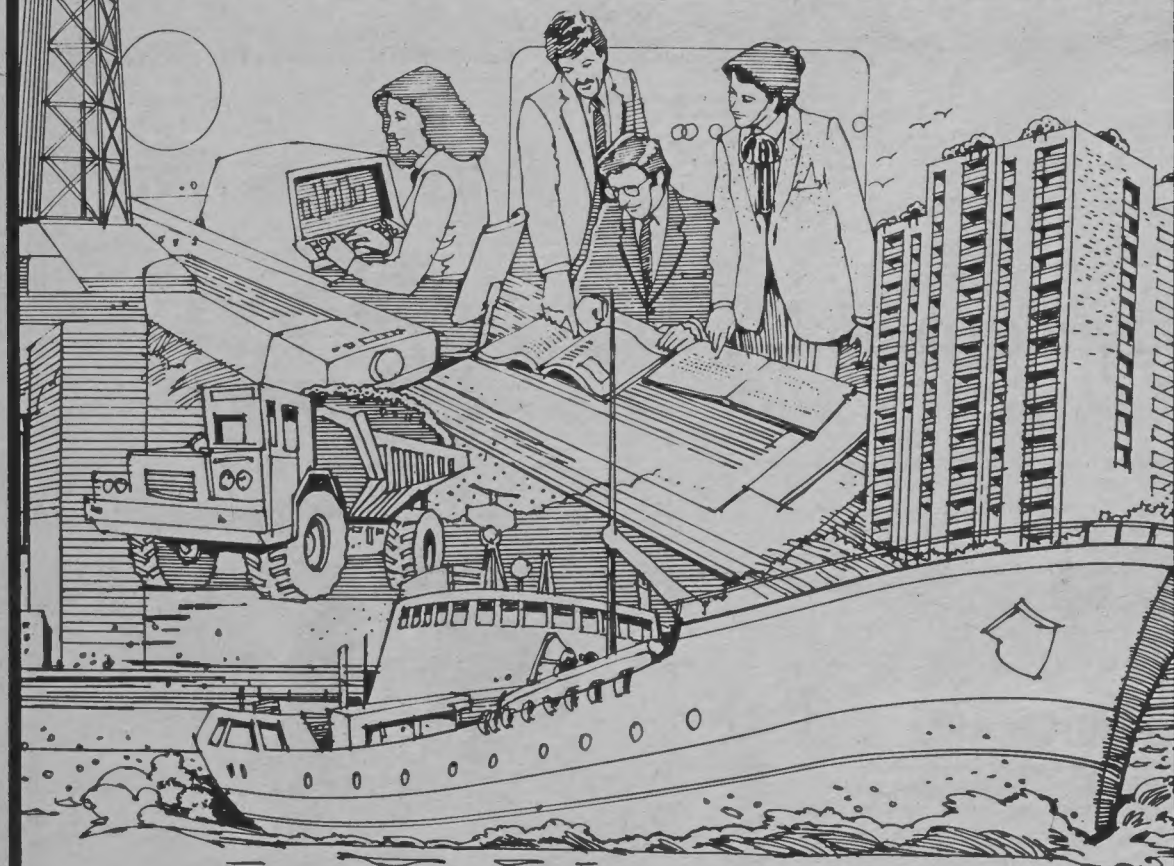
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cultural backgrounds. Also encouraging have been gifts of services and materials from local and Norwegian suppliers.

Governance

The governing body of the Laft Hus Society is a fifteen member local Board of Directors, plus representation from the City of Red Deer. This Executive Committee, headed by the President, is responsible for the completion and operation of the Laft Hus. This group gets together in the building on the first Tuesday evening of each month and visitors are welcome to attend. Membership in the Society is not restricted to those of Norwegian descent, but open to the general public. The only requirement for membership is that one must be interested enough to help share in the responsibilities that the Society has to the community.

making contest. Individuals or groups of students may enter this contest, by creating their version of the Scandinavian troll. All entries will be displayed and judged early in the festivities. For information call Eileen Bantjes at 347-5281.

AT 6:00 o'clock on Saturday a genuine Swedish supper shall be served by the local Vasa Lodge in the Pioneer Lodge. Get tickets by calling Bernice at 347-4541.

On Saturday night a dance will be held in the Golden Circle for which tickets must be purchased in advance. Music will be provided by Central Alberta's own "Scandiband" of Rimbey - featuring a variety of old-time classics and Scandinavian tunes from the turn of the century. Young and old alike are welcome to enjoy doing the old folk steps under the direc-

tion of Robert Borg. Call 347-5303 for tickets.

A special inter-denominational religious service shall be conducted at 1:00 o'clock Sunday.

For information or enquiries telephone 346-5952 or 343-4416 and ask for Betty.

The festivities end at 5:00 o'clock on June 21st.

The Laft Hus will re-open to the public on August 3rd, Heritage Day, and regular periods to be announced thereafter. Watch for scheduled cultural programs beginning in September. For information leave your name at the Official Opening, or call the Laft Hus at 347-2055.

crab dinners sponsored by the Swedish clubs.

Besides catering to the respective groups, Dickau blends Canadian culture into the centre's program. Sometimes she brings in the Calgary dance groups to perform. "We get a lot of non-members calling in about weddings too," she said.

The centre is also popular among SALT students who want to rent the spacious dance hall for their parties.

Dickau is unsure, however, about the centre's role in the 1988 Winter Olympics, which is to be held in Calgary.

Except for the Norwegian Olympic Support Committee efforts there have

CKER Now On the Air in Calgary Community

by Jeff D. Morrow

An Edmonton-based radio station has begun entertaining ethnic groups in Calgary via cable stereo FM.

Edmonton's popular multicultural radio station CKER, started transmitting its live broadcast to Calgary's diverse social spectrum May 1 on cable 94.7 FM.

The multicultural program was introduced to Calgary radio listeners April 29 during a gala broadcast from the German Canadian Club, located at 3127 Bowwood Rd. N.W.

Thought to be the voice of the world, CKER broadcasts in 23 languages, featuring news, sports, weather and interviews from around the globe.

Producer Roger Charest Jr. said that CKER is the station that will bring ethnic groups closer together.

"We'll make them feel more at home. It's our number one business," he said.

CKER received a hardy welcome from Calgary MLA Stan Cassin during the promotional ceremony. He referred to the growing number of nationalities that make up Calgary's unique community.

"With the overwhelming number of ethnic groups in Calgary we need a multicultural station like CKER to bridge the language barrier," he said.

Other guests were also pleased with the cultural benefits of having ethnic broadcasting of this magnitude. Ethno Cultural Supervisor, from the Calgary Parks and Recreation Division, Brenda Polegi said that CKER will be an outlet for ethnic groups in Calgary.

"It will give the groups a new expression," she said.



Brian Grosseth, Laft Hus designer, now of St. Paul, Alberta, avid student of Norwegian culture

Gertrude Dickau Centre Co-ordinator

By Jeff D. Morrow

It's really busy most of the time but that is what makes the job interesting, said Calgary Scandinavian Centre coordinator Gertrude Dickau.

The sharp-witted Canadian Swede, Dickau, said that her job with the 11 year-old organization often involves translating letters and answering recipe queries, but that is just a part of her many duties.

For a year and a half she has been coordinating functions for the Calgary Scandinavian community. The Norwegian, Finnish, Icelandic, and two Swedish groups rely on Dickau to organize their traditional dinner parties and ceremonies.

Naturally, Christmas is the busiest time of the year, she said, but the Finnish May days is exciting as well. And don't forget the sumptuous annual



Gertrude Dickau enjoys her job as Co-ordinator at the Calgary Scandinavian Centre

been no cultural events planned for next year's games.

"It is a shame that no one knows what to do for the Olympics", she said.

Dickau, who works 9:00am to 1:00pm, said the Scandinavian Centre is directed by shareholders.

Official Opening

The Laft Hus will be formally opened to the public on June 20th at 2:30 p.m.

On hand to assist in the ceremonies will be representatives from the Norwegian and Canadian government, as well as provincial and local dignitaries.

Tours of the house will begin after the ceremonies which will include a flag-raising ceremony accompanied by the Red Deer Band. The house will be open for viewing on Sunday as well. These mid-day formalities will kick off a weekend Scandinavian festival, open to the public in Recreation Park surrounding the Laft Hus.

A variety of Scandinavian entertainment on an outside stage has been booked for Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Accordion, violins, music to take one back in time, singers, folk dancers, comedians and whistlers to enjoy in this lovely outdoor atmosphere. On Sunday afternoon the twenty-member Scandinavian Folk Singers from Calgary will sing in Norwegian, Swedish and Icelandic, as well as English and French. Costumed folk-dancers from Edmonton and Red Deer will perform dances from the Scandinavian countries.

A variety of Scandinavian crafts will be demonstrated and offered for sale in a large tent erected for that purpose.

The Laft Hus Society's food booth will be open both days, serving Scandinavian fare, coffee and cold drinks both days with a pancake breakfast from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Sunday.

Area school students will be contributing to the festivities in a troll-

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Finnish Footnotes

FINNISH SOCIETY OF EDMONTON

by Anja Sahuri

The annual ice-fishing derby was held this year at The Fork Lake Finnish Camp on March 29, 1987. The day was a little on the cold side, but quite a few hardy individuals came out to try their luck. Although "lady luck" was not as generous to everyone, we came up with winners again this year and they are as follows: Ladies 1st, Anja Sahuri, 2nd Sirkka Ristola, 3rd Maria Utunen. Men 1st, Pauli Vanhala, 2nd Pertti Lampimäki, 3rd Arvo Ruuth. Children 1st, Tom Viinikka. Pea soup and rye bread were served to everyone after the competition, and that was a welcome treat to everyone! The happy surprise to many was that the log house had been moved to The Finnish Camp on the Friday before the competition, and later, on May 9th, 1987, the footing was poured with the help of about 23 diligent men and women. Thank you for the hard work you did.

VAPPU DANCE

The annual Vappu Dance of The Finnish Society was held on May 2, 1987, at the Hungarian Cultural Cen-

tre. The executive of The Finnish Society would like to take this opportunity to thank all those ladies who donated food to this good cause. The table was absolutely fantastic with all the delicious food, and the Valhalla dancers did a superb job for our entertainment during the evening. Many thanks to all of you. During the evening the trophies were presented to the winners of skiing and fishing competitions and we were lucky to have visitors from as far away as Australia and Finland. The lucky winner of the door prize was Mrs. Marjatta Juuti, and Riku Vesaniemi won the video cassette donated by Karvonen Films.

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY OF RITVA HAIKARAINEN

On March 21st all the friends of Ritva Haikarainen came over to wish her a Happy Special Birthday during a surprise birthday party. The day was even more special because it was also honoured by the presence of Ritva's sister and two nieces all the way from Finland. Ritva was presented with flowers and gifts from her friends and relatives, and the evening was enjoyed by all. Happy Birthday and continuous happiness to you Ritva.



Lucky winners of the Fishing Derby

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Tropic Breeze
1 Part Finlandia Vodka
3 Parts Tomato juice
and a few dashes
of Tabasco

Nordic Sun
3.5 Parts Finlandia Vodka
1.5 Parts Dry Vermouth
Shake with cracked
ice — add a slice of
lemon

On the Rocks
The pure taste of
Finlandia Vodka
is at its best in
this drink.



Ritva Haikarainen

Belated 25th Anniversary wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Karvonen. Paul Karvonen is the past president of Finnish Society of Edmonton and also of Scandinavian Centre Co-op Association.

Solglyt "Freeloaders"

by Astrid Hope
Cultural Director
Solglyt Lodge,
Sons of Norway

On March 17th at a Wine and Cheese party the "Freeloaders" helped to celebrate St. Patrick's Day for the Good Samaritan Auxilliary Hospital Residents (at 9649-71 Ave.) During the course of entertainment guest artist, Jack Myles, did special renditions of Irish tunes on his violin like "Who Threw the Overalls in Mistress Murphy's Chowder" and "Rose of Tralleé". It was a very enjoyable evening for both residents and performers.

Then, on March 31st., the "Freeloaders" entertained at the Senior Citizens' Drop-in Centre at Beverly Lodge, 4403-118 Ave. During the prelude to the main entertainment, Harry Huser set the tempo by playing old-time music on his violin. Following the entertainment, coffee and lunch was served.

For both these performances, Wally Broen, Harry Huser, Jack Myles and Astrid Hope were present.

For a birthday party April 14th the "Freeloaders" again entertained at Canora Gardens, 10160-150 St. As always, the "Freeloaders" made their day.

Berg Dynasty

On April 5th, at the monthly Sons of Norway Executive and General meeting at McKay Avenue School, Carmen Jeannette Berg was elected by acclamation to be Solglyt's Queen for 1987-88. Carmen is one of the twin daughters of Eva and Allan Berg of St. Albert, both members of Solglyt Lodge. Carmen is in her 19th year, and in her first-year Nursing Course at the Royal Alexandra Hospital. She has attended Language Camp 7 years and is planning to attend again this year.

Carmen follows in the great dynasty of the Bergs, as the fourth member of the family to have been a Sons of Norway Queen. Here they are: Sharlene Berg - 1976-77 (runner-up who took over after Barbara Fowler passed away in October, 1976).

Cynthia Berg - 1977-78

Connie Berg - 1981-85

Carmen Berg - 1987-88

Carmen will be crowned at the Syttende Mai Fest to be held May 15th at the Convention Centre. Congratulations Carmen! Have a great year!



Nils Ferlin (Swedish Poet)

By Verna Larson
Cultural Leader, Vasa Lodge Skandia

There is probably no Swedish poet whose works are read and loved more than those of Nils Ferlin. His poems are filled with humor, satire and pessimism, with moods running from tender understanding to harshness and contempt.

Nils Ferlin was born in Karlstad in 1898. He was thin and wiry and for the most time wore a serious expression. He liked to appear on the stage and recite his poetry and would occasionally turn cartwheels. He would begin his recital by politely lifting his black cylinder hat and uttering in a loud voice "My beloved brothers and sisters!" His famous cylinder hat is on display at the Ferlin Archives in Goteborg.

He was a fussy man - particular about his words, particular about his morals, and particular about his grooming. In 1945, at the age of 47, he married a Swedish Finn and moved to Penningby

Trollhaugen Language, Arts, and Craft Camp

Have you made your holiday plans? If you haven't, arrange to participate in the annual Trollhaugen Language, Arts and Craft Camp, August 16-23. NOTE: the location has been changed this year to that of Hastings Lake. It is approximately 28 K. east of Edmonton.

The theme this year is "The Lure of 'Norske Eventyr'" (fold-tales, make-believe, adventure). Come Kids and Big-Kids - come with your imagination! Have a fun-packed week laden with Norwegian folk-tales focusing on different characters such as trolls, nisse, hulders, hex, who come alive (almost). Folklore has always played a large part of Norwegian Culture and tradition.

Getting down to reality, take the opportunity to learn the language, needle and wood crafts, folk-dancing, ethnic baking and folk-painting (rosemailing) plus good hospitality. There are excellent instructors.

in Roslagen, and for the first time in his life he had a home. Shortly after, they bought a house in Norbotten, where they lived together until his death in 1961.

His first collection of poems was published in 1930. His mother's death in the 30's had an enormous impact on him and is said to have caused the depression expressed in his works following 1938. His father died very early, and it was mainly his youthful years and the happy years of his marriage that contributed to his joyous writings. By 1957 he had become ill. He developed rheumatism which made it very difficult for him to hold a pen in his hand. As his condition worsened, both mentally and physically, he became more and more depressed and his poetry reflected his moods of pessimism and despair.

One of his most famous poems is called "Valsmelodi". He himself did not write the music - it was composed by Lille Bror Soderlund. If you first read the poem and then re-read it and observe the title, you can see that it fulfills two purposes: it portrays the sweetness and goodness of life, and at the same time, its futility. The rhythm of the poem is itself in waltz time. Even without music to accompany this poem, it has a "waltz melody". It starts out in a melancholy vein: "Dagen ar slackt, morkret har vackt, stjärnor och kattor och slinkor". Translated, it says: "Daylight is gone, and the darkness has awakened the cats, the stars and the ladies of the night". In the next three lines of the poem he refers to criminals, mobs and other wickedness of the world. Then he breaks off to another scene, of children dreaming, and angels carrying lighted lanterns about the house as if to protect the children, giving a feeling of warmth and indicating that with all the squalor and wretchedness of the world, there is still love and caring.

At the end of the poem he goes back to the writer, sitting alone and writing this poem to a waltz - a languishing melody, depicting the loveliness in the world. But again he returns to his bitterness. He resigns himself to his role of worthlessness, complaining that he is terribly skinny - his legs, his arms, and his neck - and that he will soon be dead. In his last line he says: "I have nothing else in this world to gain, and soon in my grave the worms will also find that I am terribly skinny in my legs, the same in my arms and my neck."



NILS FERLIN ON STAGE

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Vasa Lodge Skandia No. 549

By Helen McEvoy

The Vasa Pioneers #12 met on March 19th at the home of Gertie Duxbury, when new officers were elected. They are: Chairman - Gertie Duxbury, Vice-Chairman - Bert Watson, Secretary - Verna Larson and Treasurer - Linnea Lodge.

Margaret Lundgren arrived in Edmonton from New Westminster on March 20th for a ten-day visit with the Eliasson families. While here, she accompanied Glen and Audrey and Gertie Duxbury to Calgary to attend the Branting Lodge 65th Anniversary celebration on March 21st. They also enjoyed a trip to the Olympic Centre and the Devonian Gardens.

Doreen Heeks left on March 16 to spend two weeks in Nashville Tennessee, visiting daughter Tracy and her husband Scott. From there Doreen went on to Texas to visit friends.

Sonja Sund flew to Arizona March 27th to spend a week with good friends Leona and Stan Hughes.

Matt and Leonard Eliasson spent a long weekend in Reno the latter part of March. Travelling down with them were sons Ron and Bart who spent a week skiing at Lake Tahoe, returning on March 28th.

Other people enjoying some skiing in the mountains were: Stephen Derpack, off to Sunshine for a long weekend during the Spring Break; Tom and Connie Pearson spent a week at Silver Star in Vernon the second week in March and also managed some skiing at Marmot on the way home.

Hank and Lori Berkenbosch spent the weekend of March 16th skiing in Banff - Lake Louise.

Nordstjarnen Lodge #575 very ably hosted the District 18 Curling and Bowling tournaments on March 28th, with the bowling taking place in Wetaskiwin and the curlers doing their stuff at Millet.

Although the Allan Eliasson team of Matt Eliasson, Hank Berkenbosch and myself were not able to successfully defend the curling trophy, we did manage to place second. District Master Andy Alm presented the trophy to 1st place curler Dwain Swedberg of Norden Lodge. Dwain, who has been runner-up several times, had Craig Stenlund, Mickey Johnson and June Johnson curling with him.

Skandia Bowlers finished in the lower half of the pack. Skandia 549 team consisted of Emil and Millie Weiss, Ray Nyross, Charlotte Samuelson and Gertie Duxbury.

Evelyn Johnson and Linnea Lodge took charge of coaching and cheering. Doreen Nyroos was able to get down to the banquet after work.

Henry Stogren, chairman of Falun Lodge, presented the Bowling Trophy with the help of Ronica Sjogren, Bertha Edin and Muriel Domzy. Branting #1 of Calgary with Gertrude Dickau, Dennis Berry, Janet Berry, Shane Berry and Tracy Berry were the winners, with Lethbridge #1 coming in second.

During the evening Joan Sundquist, Chairman of Stavely Lodge, paid tribute to Lena Uggin, a charter

member of Lethbridge Lodge who now lives in Stavely.

A very good crowd of 160 people attended the banquet, held at the Elk's Senior Citizen Centre in Wetaskiwin. M.C. for the evening was George Sjogren.

A big bouquet goes to the ladies of the host Lodge, Nordstjarnen, for the lovely lunches available during the day, both at the Curling Club and the Bowling Alley.

The 1988 District Tournament will be hosted by Lethbridge, and by Red Deer in 1989.

Allison and Harold Kinas attended the 10-year reunion at McNally High School on the weekend of April 11th. At the same time, Allison's sister Leslie was providing a different type of milestone in the Watson family. Evan Hilton Morris weighed in at 10 lbs. 1 oz. on April 11th. Congratulations to Leslie and David and proud Grandparents Bert and Vi - also to proud Great-Grandmother Astrid.

Gertie Duxbury spent 10 days on a bus tour to Reno with the Golden Agers club leaving Edmonton on April 2nd.

The April meeting of the Vasa Sisters was hosted by Martha and Bill Kay on April 13th. The next meeting will be at my home on May 13th.

Congratulations to Ken and Mary Anne Eliasson who have bought a new home in Londonderry Meadows - they will make their move in July. Also to Allan Eliasson and his bride-to-be Linda From, who have bought a home in Clairview. Allan and Linda's wedding will take place on May 23rd. Grad wishes too to Julie Pearson and fiancé Brian Turley who have bought their home in the Deer Ridge section of St. Albert. Julie and Brian are to be married in late summer.

Belated birthday greetings to Virgie Fawcett who celebrated a special birthday on April 22nd. She was honoured at a family dinner on Easter Sunday at the home of sister Audrey.

More "Happy Birthdays" go out to Liza Wold, Neal, Trudy and Darcy Parack, Kay Kerr, Doreen Nyroos in March, Stephen Derpack and Helga Johnson in April, Irma McMaster, Winnie Pearson, Hansine Pierre,

Rosalyn Johnson in May. Also to Trevor Nyroos. One Happy Birthday that won't be "belated" goes to Oscar Pearson on June 8th. I'm sure there are a lot more that I haven't been told about.

Vi and Bert Watson drove to Palm Springs in mid-March, where they spent three weeks, returning the first week in April.

Linnea and Henry Lodge have been away for most of the month of April and the first week of May, motoring through the States.

Myron and Kay Kerr spent the first week of May across Canada. Myron was the delegate to the Canadian Hospital Association Meeting in Montreal. On their way home they visited with Myron's sisters in Toronto, and with Kay's sister in Winnipeg.

Sincere condolences to the family of Hannah Sand, who died on March 12th at the Age of 86, and to the family of Alice Moberg, who died on March 18th.

Lulu and Harold Lundgren spent a short time with Martha and Bill Kay on their way to Calgary to spend Easter with daughter Lisa.

Helga Johnson accompanied son Elwood and family to San Diego and Anaheim in mid-March. They were gone for 10 days and Helga says it was a most enjoyable trip.

Lori, Hank and Matthew Berkenbosch spent Easter week with Grandmother, Margaret Lundgren in New Westminster.

While I was over scrounging plants at Anna Ross this week, I learned that neither Anna nor Ragnar have been feeling too perky lately. Here's hoping for better days ahead.

Also, "Get well" wishes to Anna Sund who is having a stay in hospital, and to Harold Markstrom who has had a second cataract operation. Good wishes too to Astrid Linquist and Paula Lindberg who have been having some rough patches lately.

While I was at Anna and Ragnar's place I learned they had been in Hawaii with son Glen for three weeks in January - Sorry it was missed - I'll have to shake up my spies.

Our youngest daughter Trudy was married to Neal Parrack in a pretty ceremony on Easter weekend.

Charlotte Samuelson hosted a shower on April 22nd which was attended by twenty three members of Skandia 549. The evening was in honor of Linda From - Alan Eliasson's bride-elect.

Faye Litvin also honoured Linda at a family shower on Wednesday May 6.

A family shower for Zaria Turta was held at the home of Linda Krauskopf of Bon Accord on April 26. Zaria is the bride-elect of Neil Samuelson.

Virgie and Milton Fawcett drove out to Kamloops B.C. the last week of April to visit friends, and then went on to have a short visit with Winnie and Oscar Pearson of Burnaby.

Congratulations to Julie Pearson, who started her new job on Monday May 4th. Julie was ready for a change from the Bank, and when offered the position of Credit Manager for Peerless Carpets, accepted the challenge.

Congratulations as well to Martha Kay. Martha was telling me at the May 4th meeting that it had been 50 years that night since she became a member of Vasa.

Sid Johnson worked in Penticton for three weeks in April. During that time wife Rosalyn spent a week out there with him.

Lennart Petersson is off to Sweden again, where he will be visiting our sister lodge in Linköping. He will present that lodge with a set of three wooden candle-holders from Skandia 549.

Sid and Rosalyn Johnson have had Sid's cousin and his wife Nuffin and Elay Hagg, visiting from Osterlund, Sweden. Accompanying the Hagg's from Winnipeg were Sid's sister and her husband, and from Edmonton they were going on to Iowa and California. While they were here Roz and Sid made sure they saw West Edmonton Mall, as well as Vasa Park.

Dates to keep in mind: Vasa Camp Week July 19th to Saturday July 25th. Registrations should be in by the end of May to be assured of a spot. We would appreciate knowing about any cabins that could be on loan for that week.

Also, plans are underway for a fun evening at Vasa Park on Sept. 5th. Clarence Knutson and his band will be supplying our music.

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CARL LARSSON

By Verna Larson
Cultural Leader, Vasa Lodge Skandia
Nordic Heritage Service Inc.
Silver Spring, MD., U.S.A.

Carl Larsson was born May 28, 1853 at Prastgatan 78 in Stockholm's Gamla Stan quarter. In 1866 at the age of 13 he was accepted into the beginners' course at the Stockholm Academy and in the next few years he worked as a cartoonist for a comic periodical, Kasper, news sketches for newspaper "Ny Illustrerad Tidning" and was commissioned to illustrate books.

In 1883 at the age of 30 he married Karin Bergoo whom he met in Paris at a Swedish artist colony. Two years later, Adolf Bergoo, his father-in-law, invited Carl and his family to Adolf's ancestral village in Sundborn in the Province of Dalarna and offered to buy him a small dwelling in the village.

He was impressed but declined the offer....as he took a liking to Lilla Hyttas, a special cottage occupied by two of Adolf's sisters. By 1888 Carl and Karen had three children, and on the death of one of Adolf's sisters and the other one moving to Stockholm, Karen's father presented them with Lilla Hyttas, so in 1889 they moved to Sundborn. With commissions and classes and exhibitions in Stockholm and Paris they kept an apartment in Stockholm and spent

their summers in Sundborn.

All together they had 7 children, and his paintings depict the happiness he felt with his lovely wife and beautiful children. He had already built up a reputation as a great artist, but he did not develop his unmistakable style until they moved to Sundborn. Family, rural life, nature, and interior decorating became his special field. Karen herself was an interior decorator, and between them, they decorated the cottage in Sundborn into a form that was all their own, with much input that was original with them.

Their furniture and other household items were collected from widely diverse periods and styles, picked up at flea-markets and repainted at home in boldly chosen colors and integrated into their decor. With this house and his pictures of it, Carl Larsson has erected a monument to himself and his family; tens of thousands of pilgrims a year still flock to his "house in the sun". In reconstructing this cottage, the Larssons stamped their imprint on today's so famous "Swedish Modern Design". Carl Larsson died in 1919 and Karen in 1928.

A visit to Carl Larsson's museum in Sundborn in Dalecarlia is an absolute must for visitors to Sweden, if you are interested in art. Even if you are not interested in art you cannot help but enjoy visiting this house of love. To me he is Sweden's Norman Rockwell.



Carl Larsson, his wife and children

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When East Meets West

Bob & Agnes Burt

A trip into distant lands such as Japan, Singapore, Bangkok and Hong Kong compressed into three short weeks boggles the mind. One sees how the other half of the world lives; those that are poor and oppressed struggling to survive, and others fortunate to live in an affluent society. One wonders at the justice of it all.

We left Edmonton in a blaze of sunshine Feb. 15th on the Bill Jackson Orient Tour and winged our way westward. After 16 hours of flight, we had passed the International Date Line and landed into tomorrow. Of course on return we landed the same day we left Japan. It's a crazy mixed up world.

Touring with nearly 80 persons bent on seeing new sights and encountering new adventures, caused mixed emotions. We did anticipate obstructions and the unexpected, but to go through a dozen Customs Officers seems a little much, especially when the return Canadian entry was the most devastating and embarrassing of all. We ended up leaving two of our members in Vancouver, having to miss their flight due to customs inspection. However, there were many compensating and happy moments throughout the trip.

Landing at Tokyo Airport, we found weather conditions about the same as at home. But flying on to Singapore we were hit by a heat wave; what a difference! Bill Jackson and Jack Cronin with their wives as hosts, made sure we were treated to the best of living wherever we ventured. Reservations and tours had been set up at each centre and all went like clockwork.

The first day in Singapore we visited many shrines and were able to take in an 'Asian Culture Show' at Raffles.

Next day we boarded a Saipan Junk for a harbour cruise through a hun-



Wedding party at Kyoto

dred freighters. That evening, the highlight of our visit, was the "Trishaw Ride" through the busy streets of downtown Singapore during evening rush hour. Seventy-six passengers and as many bicycle riders ranging in age to over 80 years, formed a snake line in and out of the traffic. When we came to a red light on an uphill ride we felt like getting out and pushing. The good-natured riders urged each other on and kept up their banter till we were deposited safely at our destination.

Our visit to Bangkok was much warmer, as we travelled the 'Klongs' (canals) to see the riverboat life and small boat markets; en route we saw many temples. That evening all took in the Piman Thai Theatre Restaurant; we sat on the floor to eat the typical Thai many course meal, then were entertained in true Thai fashion.

Plans were made to visit the "Bridge over the River Kwai", because we were near by. En route we passed many grave-yards and saw thousands of graves marking the dead of the prisoners of W.W. II.

Following hectic days at Singapore and Bangkok, we were due for three peaceful days at the Oriental Riviera, Pattaya Beach on the Gulf of Siam.

There we enjoyed back massages and sunning on the beach. Some took in a Transvestite Show, which was excellent. Next day we attended a Thai dance program, then saw trained elephants actually massage people, play football and tug-of-war — some of our party participated.

Shopping was always on our minds during spare time. Some visited the excellent tailors to have a suit made or a dress designed. The poolside barbecue dinner completed our days of luxury.

The next stop was that exciting skyscraper industrial city, Hong Kong. The city is associated with Kowloon and Macau, crowds and night life. We sailed across the crowded Bay in another Junk and, in the evening, on a ferry to take in a seafood spread like never before seen. We experienced course after course of seafood - nine courses in all.

A day visit to mainland China saw a complete change in the mood of our tour. We were met at customs by strict regimentation - no smiles - strict orders with a promise of dire results if these orders were not followed. The bus tour took us through the countryside where we saw the ground still being tilled by water buffalo, pulling a single walking plow. Land was being irrigated by hand, using a large dipper to transfer water from a common ditch to the small fields.

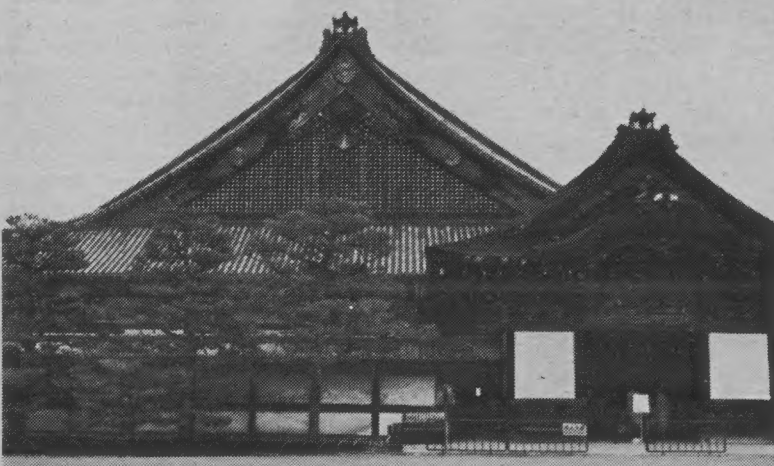
We visited a high school in China, and sat in double wooden desks of an early twentieth century vintage. There we were treated to a typical Chinese lunch following a visit to the home of Dr. Sun Yat Sen.

After passing back through customs in single file by strict numerical order, we were relieved to be back on the jetfoil for our return to Hong Kong.

On talking to the young people in Hong Kong, we broached the inevitable take over in 1997 by mainland China, learning that those who could afford to leave were taking their business to other lands, and were doing so by the thousands. We wept with the young people who had no choice but to stay.

Plans had been made to rest at a seaside resort on the South Island of Japan at Kagoshima. We stayed at a luxurious hotel, where we might take in a public bath or a hot sand sauna. We were treated royally. On one of our tours there we visited a silk factory and a crystal centre industry. On another field trip we visited the Ibusuki Golf course, but the \$200.00 green fees put us off. That evening

Continued on Page 12



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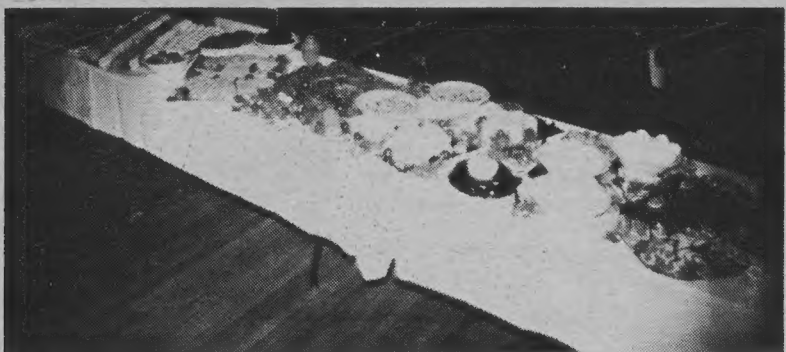
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The banquet table

Initiation Night Big Meet - Good Turn Out

By Bob Burt

Sons of Norway held an Installation meeting April 6th at which sixteen new members were welcomed into the



President Betty Broen escorted by Olga Tychsen to the President's podium

Solglyt #143 Fellowship.

District Director Thelma Dorin was present to do the honors. Marshall Reidun Berg was assisted by Bob Burt, bringing the new members through the ceremony to make them full-fledged members. The President of Solglyt Lodge, Betty Broen, was able to pin the Lodge broach on her daughter Anne Broen, while Marg and Morley MacCalder together with Neil and Twyla Gibson, daughters of Mr. & Mrs. Ruth Dodds, were pinned with their broaches in a personal ceremony. Other new members initiated into the lodge included Peter Myhre, Marion Gee, Randy Jordan, Carla Gannow, Gladys Kelly, Sandra and Keith Anderson, Carol and Gerald Ransom and Sharlene and Laird Borst.

All these new members were greeted and welcomed in a circle of friendship to full membership.

They were treated to a wine and cheese party as a gesture of welcome. To top the excitement the New Queen

Elect, Carmen Berg, was introduced and presented a bouquet of flowers. She will be Crowned S/N Queen for 1987-88 at the Syttende Mai Banquet and Dance May 15th at the Covention Inn.

Carmen is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Allan Berg. The Heir apparent's eldest sister, Cynthia, was Queen in 1978, while a second Sister Caroline ruled as Queen from 1981 to 1985. This certainly is a Royal Sons of Norway family.

Beatrice Huser showed slides of Norway to those present, which were well received. It was a full evening of culture.



Executive taking the Oath of Office



John Stensland, Treasurer, and Stan Johnson, Financial Secretary, are sworn in by Harvey Haugen



S/N Queen Linda Nyhus pins Treasurer's ribbon on John Stensland



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Queen-Elect Carmen Berg receives flowers from Cultural Director Astrid Hope



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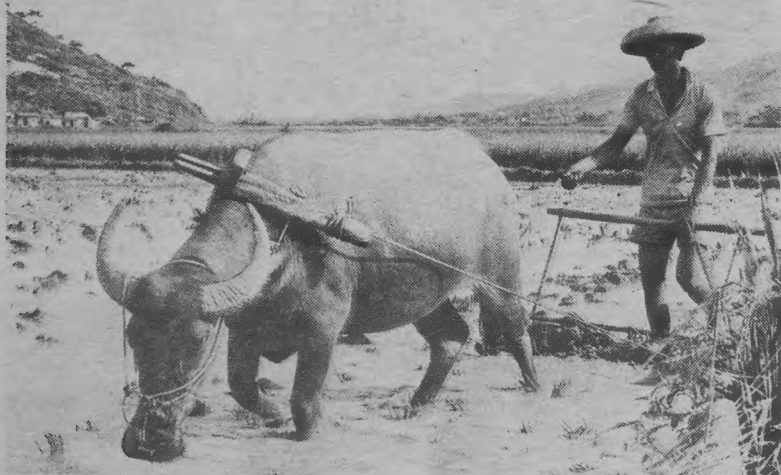
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When East Meets West Continued

we were treated to a Hawaiian Luau in Jungle Park. This was living high off the hog.

On the flight to our last stop-over, we were thrilled to view our own take-off, flight and landing, for they were monitored on the screen before

us from Kagoshima to Osaka. A bus took us from Osaka to Kyoto, a most interesting centre. We took night strolls down narrow alleys where Geisha girls used to live. Through the days that followed we toured Buddhist temples and lush gardens. Another tour took us to the Nijo Castle, the Palace and the Golden Pavilion. One evening we were



Farmer in China

treated to a Culture Show which included Koto and Gagaku music, a comic play and puppet show.

Another evening we participated in a "Sit on the floor Sukiyaki Supper", with saki and Geisha Girls entertaining as hostesses. The group was fortunate to witness a real Japanese wedding on another occasion.

On our last morning there we visited a large mall, and coming out in shirt sleeves, we were greeted by snow and a sudden drop in temperature - a freak blizzard.

Our tour was over, and we passed our last custom inspection in Japan in short order. Due to the snow, our plane was late, and we held up the 747 Jet at Tokyo for half an hour. It

was rush from one plane to another, then wing our way home. Throughout the tour we had been so well treated and taken care of that we were sorry to leave that friendly land. But all good things must come to an end.

After our turmoil at Vancouver customs, we were very thankful to touch down at Edmonton International Airport. It was March 8th and we landed in snow and very cold weather.

The trip was exciting, interesting and educational, but, we were quick to learn, 'there's no place like home'! We had carried our Canadian flags proudly wherever we travelled, and were accepted with smiles. Thank God we're Canadians!!

Norwegians to take their holidays in Norway. In 1986 Norwegians accounted for 8.4 of the 11.6 million guest nights spent in Norwegian hotels and boarding houses. Norwegians are an economically strong group, with a spending power far exceeding that of any of the nationalities that visit Norway every year, said Ronald Bye: The Swedes and Danes are to invest large amounts in attracting Norwegian tourists, and NORTRA wishes to meet the challenge.

The number of guest days in 1986 fell 2%, but was offset by a 16.8% increase in currency income and 16% higher turnover in the hotel and restaurant trade. Ronald Bye believes 1987 will be a good year for tourism in Norway. So far this year there have been no Chernobyls or terrorist action to frighten away tourists. The Norwegians give holidays high priority says Ronald Bye. A 1% income growth leads to 2% growth in holiday budgets. NORTRA hopes to convince Norwegians that it is better to spend this money at home than in enriching the tourist incomes of other countries.

Wild Salmon Reserves Threatened by Farm Salmon

Farm-bred salmon that have escaped from their confines can threaten the reserves of wild salmon says Norwegian researcher Lars Petter Hansen in Norway's Directorate for Nature Management.

In an attempt to preserve the wild salmon the Directorate for Nature Management is establishing a genes bank. It is very important, not least for salmon breeders themselves, to be able to return to nature and draw on hereditary properties that have more or less been lost during the process of changing salmon into farm animals, says Hansen.

Sweden Focus of Investigation

By Jeff Morrow

In the wake of the continuing Iran-Contra scandal, Sweden has become the focus of an investigation which has implicated Swedish-based arms manufacturer, Bofors, with the illegal exportation of goods.

Swedish authorities said, last March, that they have begun probing for details concerning illegal export practices initiated from their country.

Companies belonging to the Nobel Industries cartel are allegedly involved in the arms-for-hostages debacle.

Nobel's munitions subsidiary, Bofors, is accused of transporting weapons to Iran, as well as to other Middle East countries during the early 1980s.

Exporting arms to countries where conflict exists, is prohibited under Swedish law.

Evidence has already revealed that Bofors has sold hundreds of ground-to-air missiles, and Swedish RBS-70 missiles to Iran. Further revelations are yet to come, investigating officials said.



Floating market near Bangkok

Norwegians Spend Too Much Abroad

In 1986 foreign visitors spent one thousand million US dollars during their stay in Norway. Norwegians holidaying abroad spent 2.6 thousand million dollars. The 1.5 thousand million dollar gap separating these two amounts constitutes one third of

the total deficit on Norway's balance of payments. In other words, the Norwegian's spendthrift behaviour abroad is an important negative element in the Norwegian economy.

When presenting these figures recently, Ronald Bye, the head of NORTRA (the Norwegian tourist board) said that the figures clearly illustrate the necessity of persuading

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